

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday July 4th at Swindalehead Barn, North Stainmore.

Present

Phyl Rouston	Chair
Carol Dougherty	Membership
Heather Edwards	
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Martin Joyce	Newsletter
Richard Stevens	Secretary

Apologies

Martin Railton
Stephen Walker

Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were agreed to be a correct record.

1/7/13 Matters arising

1/3/13

- Talk to the 5th and 6th forms at the Grammar School: Still ongoing - it was agreed to follow this up during the autumn term. **(Richard/Phyl)**

7/3/13

- The decision reached during the previous meeting regarding the sending of talk reports to the C and W Herald and the Newsletter editor via the secretary is now rescinded. Each committee member who generates a talk report will themselves send the soft copy to Liz Stannard at the Herald (lizzs@cwherald.com) and will be responsible for keeping an eye on the paper to make sure that it appears. Similarly, a copy should be sent directly to Martin J for the Newsletter. **(All)**
- The question of renewal of subscriptions by Standing Order was discussed but it was felt that the administration problems arising would outweigh any advantages, particularly as only one member had expressed a preference. **(Post meeting note: Richard has informed Ron Lyon by email.)**
- Martin J presented the results of his survey on the future of the newsletter. He had received 33 responses, around half of the membership. Summarising, everyone likes the newsletter as it is and most want it to continue in its present form. Although the committee had expected this result, a complication had arisen because of the possible closure of Milburn School, where the newsletter has been printed for some years. After a discussion, various members agreed to approach possible alternatives, including W-A Archaeology, Eden Arts, Cerberus Print and Appleby Heritage Centre.
- Regarding the future of the newsletter (ie. print/electronic), this now seems to be bound up with the previous item, so a decision was deferred until the next committee meeting. However, Martin J observed that going electronic in some form would probably be the eventual outcome and if that were the case, the document would be best read via a browser.

2/7/13 Membership

Carol confirmed that there were now 69 members, 43 single and 13 joint.

Carol also raised the question of membership cards – a considerable number had not been picked up and

she queried whether or not we should continue producing them. After a discussion, the meeting decided to discontinue the use of the cards and to check membership validity at events by consulting a printed copy of the membership list, available from Google Docs. (Or whatever it's now called.)

3/7/13 Treasurer's Report

Mike presented the current state of the accounts at 4th July, showing a balance of £726.92 with cheques for £79.84 outstanding. Richard undertook to check with WCAS regarding one of the uncashed cheques. **(Post meeting note: Mike has advised that cheques have in fact been cashed.)**

4/7/13 Research

Members of the committee had attended the fieldwalking day at Coupland Beck on 21st April and said that there had been a total of 9 or 10 people attending. Three fields had been completed and the results would follow in due course.

Martin R had previously reported to the committee that he had been through all the 2012 fieldwalking finds and catalogued them. There are 22 lithics in total from four fields, including a possible Mesolithic chert blade, Bronze Age thumbnail scraper, Bronze Age flint core, a partial blade and lots of flakes. A large piece of good-quality flint was also found which is further evidence of tool manufacture. Martin will be plotting all the pieces on a map of the area in due course.

There has been no evidence of any Roman or medieval finds so far, probably because medieval settlement was focused on Appleby and the villages. Also, Brackenber was still unenclosed moorland in the medieval period. However, there are many post-medieval ceramics, including a lot of 18th and 19th century material including clay pipes (see below):

Field No	C18 th and C19 th	Pipe Stems	Pipe Bowls
1	43	62	9
2	25	26	3
3	24	12	1
4	24	4	1

5/7/13 Correspondence

Phyl had received publicity material for the CBA Festival of Archaeology which the meeting concluded was not of interest to the group this year.

Phyl had spoken to the new Appleby public hall booking manager, who, although apologising for the inconvenience, requested that we hold all meetings for the winter season 2013/14 in the main hall. This was because a yoga group had requested the use of the supper room and the hall would stand to lose £1200 if they went elsewhere. The hall had been offered to us at a £5 discount, ie. £25 per session.

The meeting briefly considered changing the meeting day in order to retain use of the supper room but eventually decided to accept the main hall. It was pointed out that the lack of a fixed power outlet in front of the stage was somewhat inconvenient and Phyl agreed to raise the subject with the manager.

Richard had received an invitation for members to sign up as volunteers for an excavation at the Maryport vicus, organised by the Hadrian's Wall Trust. However, after a short discussion the meeting decided that Maryport is too far away to be of interest to members, so the invitation would not be circulated.

Richard had also received a discussion document from CBA regarding the future of local societies and said he would follow it up. **(Post meeting note: Circulated to all committee members.)**

6/7/13 Programme

The 2013/14 programme can now be found on Google Docs and Martin J said he would send invitations to any members of the committee who did not have access so that it could be updated with contact details and write-up responsibility.

Richard undertook to send copies of the complete programme to the usual third parties.

Phyl reported that the walk around Prehistoric Shap had been extremely enjoyable and that there had been a good turnout with 16 members attending. A donation had been made to the Shap Local History Society funds. Jean Scott Smith had said that she would send details of an artefact exhibition to be held shortly at the Shap Heritage Centre. **(Richard to follow up if not received.)**

Regarding the minibus trip to Wallsend, Richard had received 10 bookings so far. Closing date was 1st August and he agreed to send around a reminder because if there were no more bookings, the trip would be cancelled and the cheques returned. The minimum number of bookings was discussed – Richard said that the trip would only be viable with 13 bookings if £10 were added from group funds but the final decision would be left until the first week in August.

Martin R had indicated that the possible visit to a W-A excavation at Shap would not now take place. Mark Graham had said that App Arch volunteers would be welcome at Papcastle at any time between late August and early October, however, it was decided not to organise a trip – members could visit if they wished. **(Post meeting note: Richard will circulate details nearer the time.)**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date and Time of next meeting: **Thursday September 26th 2013 at Pear Tree Cottage, Skirwith, 7.30pm.**